CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1342
24 August 1995

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 22 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILE ON 19 AUGUST 1995 CONDEMNING THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CONDUCTED RECENTLY BY CHINA

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the official communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile on 19 August condemning the nuclear explosion conducted recently by the People's Republic of China.

The Permanent Mission of Chile requests the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament to arrange for this communiqué to be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.95-63523 (E)

Official communiqué

The Government of Chile expresses its forceful condemnation of the further detonation of a nuclear device carried out by the People's Republic of China on 16 August at the Lop Nor test site on the Chinese mainland.

This explosion, the second to be carried out by China in the past three months, stands in clear contradiction to the principles and objectives for non-proliferation agreed upon by the international community, the People's Republic of China included, during the Conference on the review and extension of the non-proliferation Treaty held last May. During the Conference, the nuclear Powers agreed to exercise utmost restraint with regard to this type of test pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (CTBT).

This explosion also contrasts with the recent positive announcements made by the nuclear Powers regarding acceptance of the proposal to ban all types of nuclear experiments or explosions without reservations (the zero option), in the context of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty which it is hoped to conclude in 1996. Hence the timing could not be more unfortunate, when the entire world is displaying special awareness of these tests and a progressive and firm resolve to move forward in all areas of nuclear disarmament with the aim of achieving a total ban on nuclear weapons as soon as possible, as the best guarantee of international peace and security.

Consequently, the Government of Chile, which strongly opposed the nuclear tests announced by France in the South Pacific, considers that the explosions recorded in the People's Republic of China, even though they took place in a region far distant from Chile's geopolitical interests, should be completely rejected.